

Board Summary

August 6, 2026 Board Meeting

The Utah State Board of Education:

- Approved a new administrative rule governing classroom technology.
- Approved instructional materials for child sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention.
- Approved updates to the Sensitive Materials Model Policy.
- [Full agenda](#)

Board Approves Phase-In Plan

The Utah State Board of Education approved a 10-year phase in plan for the Additional Weighted Pupil Units (WPU) for Special Education Self-Contained Funding Formula legislative funding request. The funding request looks to provide an additional 1.5 WPU per student who qualifies for the SPED Self-Contained funding formula.

For additional information, please contact:

Scott Jones

Deputy Superintendent of Operations

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Board Amends Policy 5007, Trust Lands Advisory Committee

The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to Board Policy 5007, Trust Lands Advisory Committee. The changes allow the committee to establish a task force to gather feedback from stakeholders and the public on Board policies, programs, rules, and procedures.

For additional information, please contact:

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School Children's Trust Director

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Board Approves Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention Instructional Materials

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) [approved instructional materials](#) for child sexual abuse and human trafficking prevention, as required by state law.

The materials were reviewed through USBE's Recommended Instructional Materials System and evaluated by a review committee to ensure they meet state standards before being used with students, school personnel, or parents.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Updates Sensitive Materials Model Policy

The Utah State Board of Education repealed the 2022 Model Policy for Sensitive Materials and adopted the 2026 Model Policy. The updated policy aligns with changes made to R277-628 and related guidance since the initial model policy was released. The updated policy will provide current recommendations for local education agencies as they develop policies for reviewing and managing sensitive materials in schools.

For additional information, please contact:

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Meghan Everette

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Board Accepts Recommendations from the USEAP Recommendations

The Utah State Board of Education accepted recommendations from the Utah Special Education Advisory Panel (USEAP) for consideration. Based on its review of statewide data and stakeholder input, USEAP developed recommendations aimed at improving the recruitment and retention of special education teachers and requested that the Board's new leadership standards reflect those recommendations.

For additional information, please contact:

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Board Approves Alpine School District Waiver from R277-484

The Utah State Board of Education approved Alpine School District's request for a waiver from Rule R277-484, Data Standards. The approved waiver is related to the establishment of special education schools and the upcoming split of Alpine School District.

For additional information, please contact:

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Superintendent

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Lara Cooper

Assistant Attorney General

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Board Approves Amendment to Data Sharing Agreement with DHHS and Juvenile Courts

The Utah State Board of Education approved a one-year extension of its data sharing agreement with the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Utah Juvenile Courts. USBE staff will work with DHHS and Utah Juvenile Courts to draft new, updated agreements. The agreement supports coordination among agencies by allowing the secure sharing of information to better serve students involved in foster care, juvenile justice, and Youth in Care programs, helping ensure continuity of educational services and support.

For additional information, please contact:

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USBE Director of Privacy

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Board Approves Sensitive Materials Review Timeline and Funding

The Utah State Board of Education approved the 2026 timeline for conducting a comprehensive review and audit of public school library material selection and acquisition practices. The Board also approved \$60,000 in discretionary funding to support the review, which will examine areas such as procurement practices, funding sources, collection development standards, librarian training, vendor relationships, and the role of professional organizations in shaping library policies.

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Board Receives and Advances Education Reporting Requirements Study

The Utah State Board of Education received a report examining education reporting requirements and directed that it be submitted to the Legislature. Required by state law, the study evaluates reporting requirements placed on schools and districts, assesses their administrative burden, and includes recommendations for both the Legislature and USBE to improve reporting efficiency.

For additional information, please contact:

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Senior Research Analyst

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Board Directs Staff to Pursue Proposed Statutory Changes

The Utah State Board of Education directed staff to work with legislators on potential amendments to the Utah Code. The proposed statutory changes are part of the Board's annual legislative planning process and include amending 53E-4-202 by striking 90 days and inserting 60 days, ensuring all CTE teachers, Apex Center Educators, School Social Workers, leadership in charter schools, Speech Language Pathologists and audiologists are required to obtain a license through the USBE, and reviewing programs and program managers providing resources to private and home school students for cohesion, disbursement clarity, and possible duplications.

For additional information, please contact:

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New Administrative Rules, Amendments, and Repeals

The Utah State Board of Education approved, amended, or repealed the following administrative rules:

- [R277-462, Comprehensive School Counseling Program](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-462, Comprehensive School Counseling Program, to align with the funding and budget directives passed during the 2026 General Legislative Session. R277-462 establishes the standards and procedures for a Local Education Agency to apply for and receive funds appropriated for the Comprehensive School Counseling Program.
- [R277-110, Educator Salary Adjustment](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-110, Educator Salary Adjustment, to align with changes made by H.B. 374. The update ensures that the Division of Professional Licensing-licensed audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and social workers remain eligible for educator salary adjustments following recent licensing changes.
- [R277-626, Carson Smith Scholarships Funding and Procedures](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-626, Carson Smith Scholarships Funding and Procedures, to align with changes made by S.B. 54 during the 2026 General Session. The updates remove income-based eligibility requirements, align allowable expenses more closely with the Utah Fits All Scholarship Program, and add new requirements for the Scholarship Granting Organization. The amendments are intended to improve program transparency, strengthen accountability, and ensure compliance with state law.
- [R277-445, Classifying Small Schools as Necessarily Existent](#): The Utah State Board of Education amended and approved R277-445 during its five-year review. The rule provides additional funding for qualifying small and rural schools that

face unique geographic and operational challenges. The amendment removes the oversight category from the rule.

- [R277-460, Distribution of Substance Abuse Prevention Account](#): The Utah State Board of Education amended and approved R277-460 Distribution of Substance Abuse Prevention Account during its five-year review. The rule governs how substance abuse prevention funds are distributed to support statewide prevention programs, educational resources, and local prevention and intervention efforts in schools.
- [R277-486, Professional Staff Cost Program](#): The Utah State Board of Education repealed R277-486, Professional Staff Cost Program. The repeal follows legislative action in H.B. 2 (2025), which eliminated funding for the program and repealed the statute that authorized it, making the rule obsolete.
- [R277-108, Annual Assurance of Compliance for Local Education Agencies](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved R277-108, Annual Assurance of Compliance for Local Education Agencies. The amendment updates the incorporated 2026-27 Compliance and Assurance document, which outlines compliance requirements for local education agencies.
- [R277-465, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation in Schools](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved R277-465, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) in Schools. The rule implements requirements established by SB 244 by outlining expectations for Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERPs) in schools and establishing how USBE will monitor local education agency compliance.
- [R277-927, Teacher and Student Success Act Program](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-927, Teacher and Student Success Act (TSSA) Program. The updates align the rule with S.B. 241 (2026) by requiring schools that fall below the state's third-grade reading benchmark to dedicate a portion of their TSSA funding to evidence-based literacy interventions.
- [R277-334, Classroom Technology](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved R277-334, Classroom Technology. The new rule implements requirements established by H.B. 273 and sets statewide expectations for instructional technology and artificial intelligence use in schools. It requires local education agencies to adopt policies on technology and AI use, provide educator training, ensure parent transparency and student protections, and establish supports for students with technology-related learning difficulties.
- [R277-717, High School Course Grading Requirements](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-717, High School Course Grading Requirements. The updates implement provisions of H.B. 502 by establishing

statewide standards for citizenship grading, parent notification and opt-out rights, and requirements to keep citizenship grades separate from academic course grades. The rule also requires citizenship grades to be based on clearly defined and observable behaviors.

- [R277-322, Local Education Agency \(LEA\) Codes of Conduct](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-322, Local Education Agency (LEA) Codes of Conduct. The rule establishes minimum standards for educator conduct, including expectations related to professional boundaries, electronic communications, abuse reporting, and annual training.
- [R277-301 Educator Licensing](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-301, Educator Licensing. The updates align the rule with H.B. 374, which transferred licensing authority for audiologists and speech-language pathologists from USBE to the Division of Professional Licensing (DOPL), and include additional technical revisions to reflect the change.
- [R277-304, Teacher Preparation Programs](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-304, Teacher Preparation Programs. The updates revise requirements for secondary educator preparation programs, update terminology throughout the rule, and modify requirements for Career and Technical Education (CTE) preparation programs.
- [R277-306, Educator Preparation Programs for School Psychologists, Audiologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Speech-Language Technicians, Counselors, and School Social Workers](#): The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-306, Educator Preparation Programs. The updates align the rule with H.B. 374 by removing provisions related to audiologist and speech-language pathologist preparation programs following the transfer of licensing authority from USBE to the Division of Professional Licensing (DOPL).
- [R277-101, Public Participation in Utah State Board of Education Meetings](#): The Utah State Board of Education continued R277-101, Public Participation in Utah State Board of Education Meetings, as part of its required five-year review. The rule outlines procedures for public participation in Board meetings and ensures compliance with state open meeting and public engagement requirements.
- [R277-409, Public School Membership in Associations](#): The Utah State Board of Education continued R277-409, Public School Membership in Associations, as part of its required five-year review. The rule governs public school participation in associations and organizations and will remain in effect without substantive changes.

- [R277-211, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission \(UPPAC\), Rules of Procedure: Notification to Educators, Complaints and Final Disciplinary Actions:](#)
The Utah State Board of Education approved amendments to R277-211, Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission (UPPAC) Rules of Procedure. The updates implement requirements from S.B. 312 related to educator license suspensions and incorporate changes requested by Board members to strengthen and clarify the UPPAC process.

Board Approves Consent Calendar

The Utah State Board of Education approved its consent calendar.

Meeting Highlights for Friday's Committee Meetings

The Utah State Board of Education [Standards and Assessments, Law and Licensing, and Finance Committees](#) met on Friday, August 7. Any items approved in committee meetings will be heard by the full Board during its September meeting.

Standards and Assessment Committee met in a hybrid format from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights included:

- Preliminary approval of the release of updated General Financial Literacy standards for a 30-day public comment period, beginning the process of revising what students learn in financial literacy courses.
- Preliminary approval of R277-633, Dyslexia Screener to be moved forward for the Board review. The new rule establishes requirements for dyslexia screening to help identify students who may need additional literacy support and intervention.

Law and Licensing Committee met in a hybrid format from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights included:

- Preliminary approval of amendments to R277-330, Utah Effective Educator Standards. The rule outlines the professional standards educators are expected to meet and serves as a foundation for educator preparation, development, and evaluation across Utah schools.
- Preliminary approval of proposed components of a statewide School Safety Dashboard and forwarded the item to the full Board. The

dashboard is intended to provide consistent reporting and oversight of school safety information across Utah schools.

Finance Committee met in a hybrid format from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meeting highlights included:

- Recommending that the Utah State Board of Education fund an Early Literacy Research Study using Federal Mineral Lease discretionary funds. The study is intended to provide additional research and data to support literacy initiatives and inform future policy decisions.
- Preliminary approval of amendments to R277-113, Local Education Agency Fiscal and Auditing Policies, and forwarded the rule to the Board for consideration. The rule establishes financial management and auditing requirements for school districts and charter schools.